



What is the new ELITE Association and what are the benefits of membership?

What is the ELITE Association?

The ELITE Association was founded in December 2004 by some twenty members from all over Europe. "ELITE" stands for European Logistics, Infrastructure and Transport Expertise network, and the Association is a continuation of the informal ELITE network of research and consulting firms, started in 2000. Together, these firms form a platform of leading research, consulting and training firms active in the field of transport, logistics and infrastructure, who are combining their expertise, experience and knowledge. The Association's aim is to improve the professional quality of its members and the projects they are involved in, and to offer advice and act as an interlocutor for international organisations like the European Commission.

What are the benefits of ELITE membership?

ELITE membership has several benefits. The original benefit, to function as a market offering opportunities to build consortia that bid for contracts of the European Commission, is still very much sought after by the members. Modern communication tools are being developed to help members in their search for qualified partners, and the effectiveness of this will increase with the number of members. It should be stressed, however, that this is done in a way which respects the commercial interests of each member. Each member is free to form a consortium with any other firm, regardless if this is an ELITE member or not. There is no intention whatsoever within the ELITE Association to limit the competition for such contracts. The decision to answer to a call for proposals is left to the individual members and not discussed in the Association.

Linked to this is the establishment of close contacts with the European Commission and other international organisations, discussing their programmes, offering programme suggestions, and offering advice on the way the contracts are managed. In this way the ELITE Association is standing for the common interests of its members.

Other activities that are beneficial to the members:

- information requirements and other commercial opportunities world-wide;
- web-based tools for common utilisation;
- promoting the development of trans-national research programmes;
- exchange of trainees between the members;
- exchange of experience with policies and practices in the different countries;
- support for young researchers and professionals who want to obtain international experience through short stays in different countries at an early stage in their careers.

Objectives of the ELITE Association

The overall objective of the ELITE Association is to function as an association of excellence for international research and consultancy in transport, infrastructure and logistics.

This includes the following, more specific objectives:

- improving the professional quality of the members and increasing the quality level of European research and training in the fields of transport, logistics and infrastructure;
- improving the quality and efficiency of projects by bundling pan-European expertise;
- offering advice and acting as an interlocutor for the European Commission and other (inter)national organisations on the development of transport policy and transport research programmes;
- representing the interests of the members by establishing stable relationships with other international organisations.

Who should join the ELITE Association?

The ELITE Association welcomes as new members all organisations that are commercially active in research, studies or training in the fields of logistics, infrastructure planning and transport. This does not mean they have to be privately owned, but they should be operating in the market for their work. Furthermore, members should be legal entities, be working actively in Europe (which is not restricted to the EU), demonstrate a stable interest in working in the fields mentioned above, have a record of good conduct, and not have a negative impact on the association's stability.

Candidate member organisations are asked to fill out an application form. Admission will be decided by the Board and appeal can be made to the General Assembly of ELITE.

What are the costs of membership?

The annual membership fees are:

- for members from the Central and Eastern European countries € 1,000,
- for members from the other European countries € 2,500.

Fees are calculated from the month in which the new member is admitted.

To join the ELITE Association ...

... please contact the Secretariat at the addresses given below.

Secretariat

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Board of Directors

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Members of the ELITE Association (September 2005):

Czech Republic : CDV Centrum Dopravního Vyzkumu (Brno).

Denmark : NTU (Aalborg), TetraPlan (København).

Finland : LT-Consultants (Kuopio).

France : AFT-IFTIM (Rantigny), Nestear (Gentilly).

Germany : DiaLog (Düsseldorf), Planco Consulting (Essen), PTV Planung Transport Verkehr (Karlsruhe).

Greece : SYSTEMA (Athina).

Hungary : Transman (Budapest).

Italy : ISIS (Roma), TRT (Milano).

Netherlands : Buck Consultants International (Nijmegen), ECORYS (Rotterdam), NEA (Rijswijk).

Poland : ILIM (Poznan).

Portugal : TIS (Lisboa).

Spain : Consultrans (Madrid), INECO (Madrid).

United Kingdom : Atkins (Epsom), Sinclair Knight Merz (London), David Simmonds Consultancy (Cambridge).